

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 5 has been amended. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested.

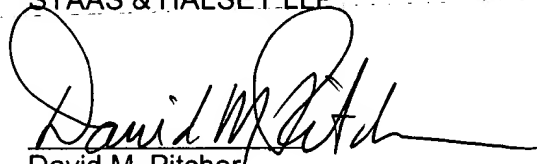
Claims 1-7 are pending in the application.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

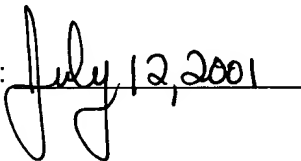
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By:

  
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second judgment means which is operated when an image to be subjected to character recognition contains a plurality of character strings in order to judge the orientation of the image on the basis of information representing the orientations of the character strings judged by the judgment means.